MARVEL
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON
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ALSO:
NAMOR

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016
Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Richard and Michael,

Starting with the covers and continuing throughout the inside pages, MCP #144 was probably one of the best issues of this title.

First off, we had an excellent Steve Lightle cover. When I think of Steve, I think of the expression, "less is more". With only minimal artwork, Steve has the ability to create complex, sophisticated covers. He never seems to use more detail than is needed. Colin MacNeil, on the other hand, draws very detailed covers that are a pleasure to behold. His rendering of Vengeance is proof of this. Of course, I'm wondering why Vengeance even got a cover, since he wasn't in any of the stories. Too bad you didn't have Colin draw a Werewolf cover.

The stories within continued the quality trend set by the covers. The Morbius and Ghost Rider stories fit perfectly into the "Siege of Darkness" storyline. That's pretty amazing, considering the stories were done by two different writers. This is how a cross-over should be done, with the stories planned in advance so different chapters won't contradict each other.

Flipping the book over, we find the conclusions of the Werewolf and Scarlet Witch stories. The Werewolf tale seems to have improved greatly since the first half. It had some great art, a fast-paced story, and an important message: ignoring a problem won't make it go away. This is something a lot of people need to learn. As for the Scarlet Witch story, it was a weak segment in an otherwise excellent issue. The plot was somewhat confusing, and I didn't particularly care for the coloring. The artist did have some unusual work, though, and it was better than the first chapter. All in all, this was a nearly flawless issue.

Keep up the good work.

As for the suggestion of using martial arts characters in MCP, variety is the spice of life. I would be glad to see Shang-Chi appear in these pages again. Mantis was an unusual character, so I wouldn't mind seeing her revived. The Silver Samurai is also a possibility, since he hasn't been developed that much during his appearance in the X-books. Of course, there's always Psylocke, everyone's favorite British mutant ninja. Just one warning: if you include Eastern mysticism in your stories, try to portray it accurately. Too often, eastern philosophy is unfortunately depicted as idiotic mumbo jumbo. This is regretful, since we should have respect for the beliefs of other cultures, even if we don't understand those beliefs. Think about my suggestions, okay?

By the way, what's wrong with a B+? I know dozens of students in my school who'd sell their souls to Mephisto for a B+. Oh well, I guess we have to hold this book to a higher standard. It's a good thing I didn't give you guys a grade of B. Then you might really let me have it.

See you next issue.

Ben Herman
45 Runyon Place
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Good advice about the Eastern Philosophy, Ben. Those dang writers have to learn to earn their living, and do some research if they don't know their topic as well as they know the back of their hands.

As you can see for yourself, Ben, we've become sensitive about the grading. These are creative people we're labeling.

We've decided that perhaps we shouldn't put them under any undue pressure to compete for letters (or claws as in the old days). We don't want them to think their talent can be boiled down to just an A, B, C, D or F.

Reggie Jones — COVER
Richard Ashford — EDITOR
Michael Kraiger — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.

DAUGHTERS OF THE DRAGON 1

"TILL DEATH US DO PART"

Collen Wing and Misty Knight find the pieces fall into place in the game of life, when they come between a brutal husband and his battered wife.

Writer — FLOYD HUGHES
Artist — REGGIE JONES
Letterer — SUSAN CRESPI
Colorist — REGGIE JONES

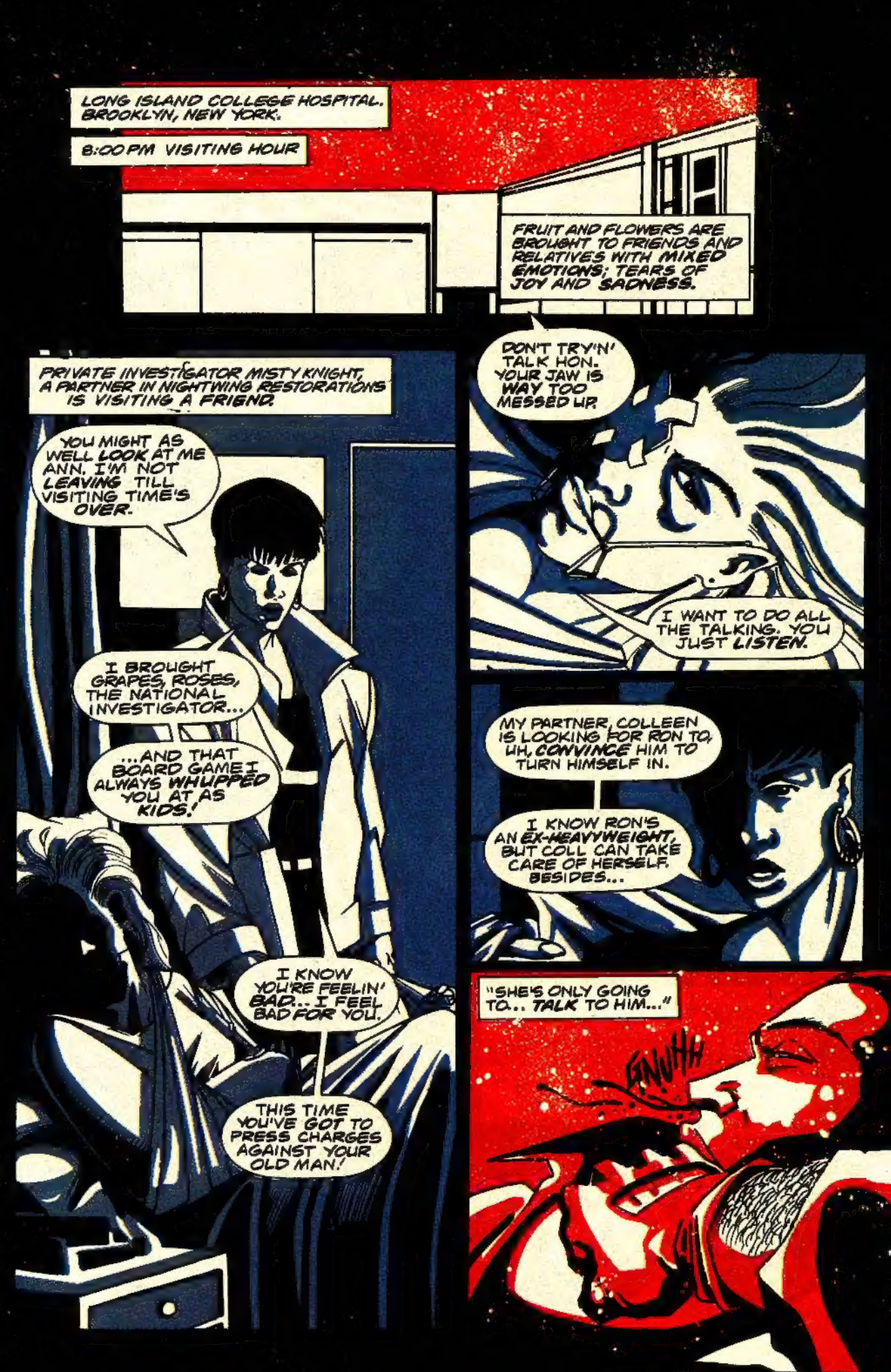
pg.

NAMOR 9

"DIVER DOWN"

The sinister reality of toxic chemicals and nuclear wastes beneath the surface of the ocean has the ecological Deep Diver scouring the seas bottom, searching for proof of illegal dumping. But there is someone else besides the Prince of Atlantis, who is interested in the divers' progress.

Writer — JOHN FIGUEROA
Penciler — PHIL HUGH FELIX
Inker — FRED FREDERICKS
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — JOE ANDREANI


LONG ISLAND COLLEGE HOSPITAL. BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.
8:00 PM VISITING HOUR
FRUIT AND FLOWERS ARE BROUGHT TO FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WITH MIXED EMOTIONS; TEARS OF JOY AND SADNESS.
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR MISTY KNIGHT, A PARTNER IN NIGHTWING RESTORATIONS IS VISITING A FRIEND.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL LOOK AT ME ANN. I'M NOT LEAVING TILL VISITING TIME'S OVER.
I BROUGHT GRAPES, ROSES, THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATOR...
...AND THAT BOARD GAME I ALWAYS WHUPPED YOU AT AS KIDS!
I KNOW YOU'RE FEELIN' BAD... I FEEL BAD FOR YOU.
THIS TIME YOU'VE GOT TO PRESS CHARGES AGAINST YOUR OLD MAN!
DON'T TRY'N' TALK HON. YOUR JAW IS WAY TOO MESSED UP.
I WANT TO DO ALL THE TALKING. YOU JUST LISTEN.
MY PARTNER, COLLEEN IS LOOKING FOR RON TO, UH, CONVINCE HIM TO TURN HIMSELF IN.
I KNOW RON'S AN EX-HEAVYWEIGHT, BUT COLL CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF. BESIDES...
"SHE'S ONLY GOING TO... TALK TO HIM..."
GNUHH

"BE DIPLOMATIC" SHE SAID..."AVOID VIOLENCE, USE RESTRAINT."
OBVIOUSLY, THIS GUY ENJOYS HITTING WOMEN!
YOUR WAY ISN'T WORKING MISTY...
...SO I'LL HAVE TO USE MINE!
HE HIT ME FIRST. SO I'M WITHIN MY RIGHTS TO MAKE A CITIZEN'S ARREST!
The Daughters of the Dragon
"Till DEATH Us Do Part"

LET'S SEE NOW...
...I'LL GO FIRST.
FUNNY THING ABOUT... WIVES... GIRLFRIENDS BEING BATTERED.
IT HAPPENS EVERYWHERE.
IT'S NOT A RACE-THING. IT'S NOT A CLASS THING...
...IT'S A MAN-THING.
KINDA LIKE A UNIVERSAL "MALE BONDING RITUAL."
THE REASONS MAY DIFFER, YET IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO COME DOWN TO THE SAME THING...
"...THAT GOOD OL' MALE EGO."
GEGAAK
HE'S WAY TOO STRONG... CAN'T KEEP PULLING PUNCHES...
...'SPECIALLY WHEN I'M DYING TO WIPE THE FLOOR WITH HIM!
"SOMETIMES THEY CAN'T STAND THE IDEA OF AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN HOLDING HER OWN IN TODAY'S WORLD..."
UHH
THIS ISN'T GOOD. IF HE CONNECTS, I'M IN SERIOUS TROUBLE...
...BETTER END THIS NOW...!

"WOMEN CONTROLLING THEIR OWN DESTINIES THREATEN THEM."
ENOUGH!
URG!
"IT'S OKAY FOR A MAN TO LEAVE A WOMAN, BUT IF SHE LEAVES..."
"...ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!"
SOMETIMES SHE'S STALKED, HARASSED... EVEN ASSAULTED.
SOMETIMES SHE'S AFRAID TO LEAVE OUT OF FEAR FOR HERSELF--OR HER KIDS.
SOMETIMES IT'S THE FEAR OF BEING ALONE... THE LACK OF SECURITY SHE BELIEVES ONLY HER MAN CAN PROVIDE.
IT'S BRED INTO US FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD.
THANKS FOR THE DANCE, RON.
YOUR TWO-STEP'S FINE, BUT YOUR FOX-TROT NEEDS A LITTLE WORK.
NOW, LET'S GO SEE YOUR OLD LADY...!
"SEE YOUR RON...?"

"MEN LIKE HIM ARE PERPETUAL COWARDS."
AAAAHHH!
GOTCHA!
"THEY'VE GOT TO PUT SOMEONE DOWN TO RAISE THEIR OWN...
MY RULES NOW... BABY.
"THEY VENT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS AGAINST AN EASY TARGET, 'STEAD OF FACING WHAT'S REALLY BUGGING THEM."
...SHORTCOMINGS..."
I'M NOT BLAMING YOU, ANN. IT MUST SEEM EASY FOR ME TO SAY "BE STRONG" WHEN I'M A TRAINED MARTIAL ARTIST PACKIN' A GUN...
...'N' I'M NOT TELLING YOU TO FISTFIGHT HIM. THAT'D JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE.
...THOUGH A SELF DEFENSE COURSE WOULDN'T BE A BAD IDEA...
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE, HON...
FORGET THAT OLD SAYING "YOU ALWAYS HURT THE ONE YOU LOVE."
...'CAUSE IF THIS IS LOVE...
...IMAGINE WHAT HATE IS GONNA DO TO YOU...!

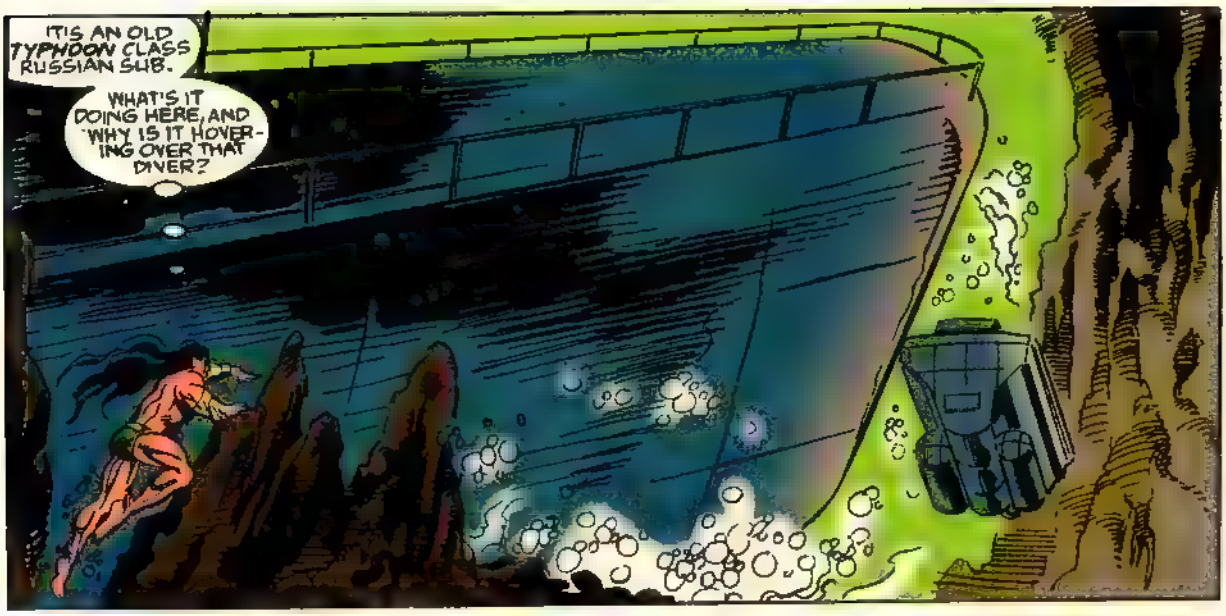
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HE'LL SAY...
"I'M SORRY BABY, I LOST CONTROL, BUT SOMETIMES YOU MAKE ME SO MAD..." Y'KNOW? YOU ASK FOR IT!
I HATE MYSELF FOR DOING THIS-- I PROMISE, IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN...
...YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU."
MY COUSIN'S BOY-FRIEND SAID THAT TO HER...TWO DAYS BEFORE HE BROKE HER ARM.
PRESS CHARGES, ANN. RESTRAINING ORDERS DON'T ALWAYS WORK...
...SO HAVE HIM ARRESTED AND PUT AWAY!
BECAUSE NEXT TIME...
"...IT MIGHT NOT BE A HOSPITAL I BRING FLOWERS TO..."
OKAY RONNY-BOY, WE'LL PLAY YOUR GAME.
BUT LET'S FACE IT...
...MY TOY'S MUCH BIGGER THAN YOURS..
...BABY.

8:57 PM
YO, MISTY! HOW'S IT GOIN'?
COPS WANNA KNOW IF YOUR PAL'S GONNA PRESS CHARGES AGAINST "PRINCE CHARMLESS..."
Oh, God... ANNIE?
I... I MUSTA FLIPPED OUT! I FEEL SO BAD, I COULD... KILL MYSELF!
BUT I SWEAR, BABY, IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!
I DIDN'T WANNA HURT YOU, BUT Y'KNOW? YOU MAKE ME!
I LOVE YOU, BABY!
RISK
DARE

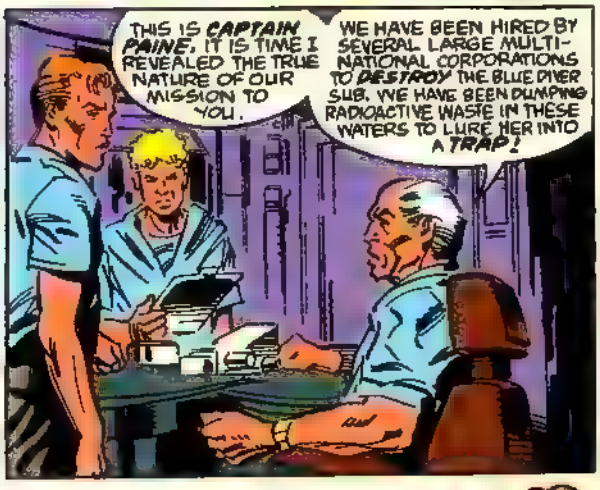
OKAY, BIG GUY, LET'S BOOGIE!
AH, HUH AH, HUH
SHHHHHH. good girl, good girl...
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, HON. I'M PROUD OF YOU.
TRY AND GET SOME SLEEP OKAY?
I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU WAKE UP.
RISK OR DARE
RISK OR DARE

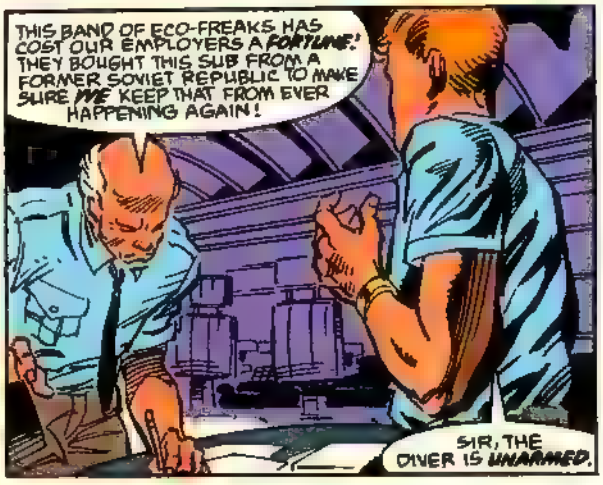
SOMEWHERE IN THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN...
DIVE
HERE SHE COMES, ON TIME FOR HER ANNUAL VISIT!
THE MAJESTIC BLUE DIVER SUBMARINE AND HER VALIANT CREW OF ECO-WARRIORS.
ONCE A YEAR SHE PATROLS CANYONS NEAR ATLANTIS IN SEARCH OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES...
...AND ONCE A YEAR I COME TO WATCH SILENTLY OVER HER.
DIVER DOWN

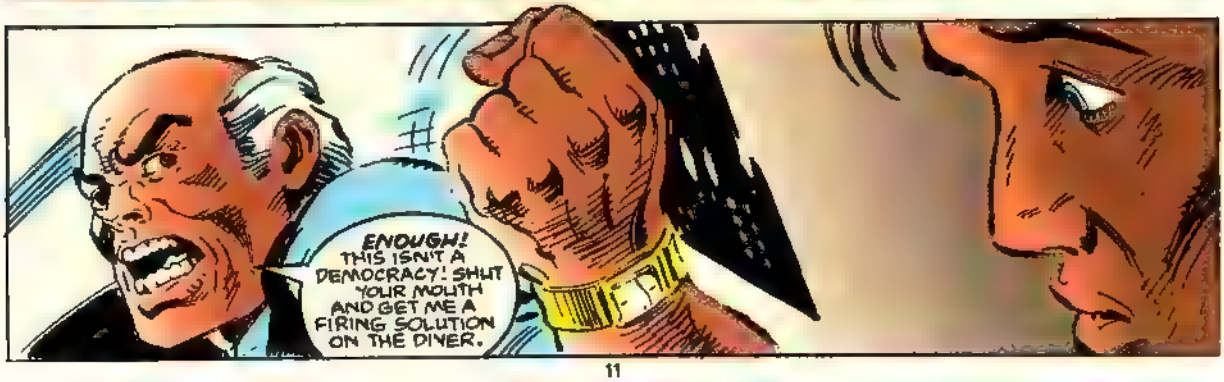
INSIDE THE DIVER...
CAPTAIN, WE HAVE TO MOVE IN CLOSER IF WE WANT BETTER PHOTOS.
KLICK
LOOK AT THE AMOUNT OF TOXIC WASTE DRUMS DUMPED HERE! WE'RE GONNA NAIL THEM WITH THESE PICTURES!
I MUST BE DISCREET--I DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY
FINISH UP THIS ROLL OF FILM AND THEN LET'S MOVE ON.
TURN ON MY MARK...
CAPTAIN ROGALL, I HAVE A LARGE VESSEL APPROACHING AT 26 KNOTS!
RIGHT FULL RUDDER--GET US OUT OF HERE!
WHAT THE--?!


IT'S AN OLD TYPHOON CLASS RUSSIAN SUB.
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE, AND WHY IS IT HOVERING OVER THAT DIVER?

INSIDE THE DARKSTAR-- TYPHOON CLASS SUBMARINE.
STATUS REPORT, LT. SANCHEZ?
WE HAVE THE DIVER IN OUR SIGHTS, SIR. THE MEN ARE READY TO BE BRIEFED...
...SHIP'S INTERCOM ACTIVATED.


THIS IS CAPTAIN PAINE. IT IS TIME I REVEALED THE TRUE NATURE OF OUR MISSION TO YOU.
WE HAVE BEEN HIRED BY SEVERAL LARGE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO DESTROY THE BLUE DIVER SUB. WE HAVE BEEN DUMPING RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN THESE WATERS TO LURE HER INTO A TRAP!


THIS BAND OF ECO-FREAKS HAS COST OUR EMPLOYERS A FORTUNE! THEY BOUGHT THIS SUB FROM A FORMER SOVIET REPUBLIC TO MAKE SURE WE KEEP THAT FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN!
SIR, THE DIVER IS UNARMED.


ENOUGH! THIS ISN'T A DEMOCRACY! SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND GET ME A FIRING SOLUTION ON THE DIVER.

THE TORPEDO TUBES ARE FLOODING!
CAPT. ROGALL, THAT SUB IS PREPARING TO FIRE ON US!
THIS IS NOT A DRILL, RED ALERT!
WE HAVE TARGET ACQUISITION.
FIRE ON MY MARK...
THE SHIPS ARE MOVING TOO FAST, I'VE GOT TO MOVE IN CLOSER!
...3, 2, 1-- FIRE!
CLIK
BOOSH BOOSH
THEY FIRED TORPEDOES AT THE DIVER!! WHAT MANNER OF INSANITY IS THIS?!

EVASIVE MANEUVERS, 15 DEGREES DOWN LEFT!
INCOMING!
BOOSHH
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT IN TIME!
BRACE FOR IMPACT!
SKREESH
BOOM
THAT TORPEDO'S HIT THE CANYON WALL! AN AVALANCHE IS STARTING!
WHAT'S THIS ON THE MONITOR... RAMOR! QUICK, START DUMPING ALL OF OUR RADIOACTIVE WASTE OUT OF THE SUB!
MAYDAY, S.O.S, DIVER DOWN, I REPEAT, DIVER DOWN!

BOTH SUBS ARE SINKING INTO THE CANYON. WHICH DO I SAVE?
THE TYPHOON IS LEAKING WASTE; IT COULD BE A CORE BREACH.
THE RUSSIAN SUB IS NUCLEAR. THE RISK TO ATLANTIS IN THESE CANYONS AND TO THE ENVIRONMENT IS TOO GREAT--I MUST SAVE TYPHOON SUB.
AND AFTER THAT, INTO THE BREACH FOR THE BRAVE CREW OF THE DIVER! HERE'S MY CHANCE, THE SUB IS COMING DOWN ON ME!
I... MUST PUSH... HARDER!!!
THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG--I'M LOSING THE DIVER!
THE BIG SUB IS CLEAR--NO TIME TO LOSE. BACK TO THE CANYON!
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF MAMOR! HE DOESN'T LOOK THAT BIG ON TV. IS HE ON STEROIDS?
SHUT UP, YOU FOOL! FIRE ON THE CANYON WALLS. WE HAVE TO BURY THEM!
PHISHBOOM

SOMETIMES MY BRILLIANCE DAZZLES EVEN ME...
I DUMPED OUR WASTE OUT OF THE SUB SO THAT NAMOR WOULD THINK WE HAD A CORE BREACH, A MELTDOWN,
I KNEW HE'D RESCUE US RATHER THAN RISK AN ECO-DISASTER. I SAVED THE SHIP!
I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE ABOUT THAT IF I WERE YOU.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR DRY WIT, SANCHEZ. ANY MORE OUT OF YOU AND I'LL HAVE YOU SHOT. NOW TAKE US TO 600 METERS.
INSIDE THE CANYON...
I'VE GOT TO PUSH THE DIVER FROM THE BOTTOM AND THEN PULL IT UP OUT OF THE CANYON, BUT THERE IS TOO MUCH DEBRIS!
SOON WE'LL BE COMPLETELY BURIED-- I MUST USE ALL OF MY POWER! THE AVENGING SON MUST NOT FAIL!!
WAIT, SHE'S STOPPED SINKING, SHE'S PULLING UP!
WE'RE FREE OF THE AVALANCHE! AND NOW IF WE MOVE FAST WE CAN CATCH UP TO OUR FRIENDS...

SOON...
PREPARE TO SURFACE.
SWOOSH
CAPT. PAINE... HEH, UH HEM... I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE THIS.
WHAT NOW, SANCHEZ-- WAIT ONE MINUTE, THIS CAN'T BE!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THEY WERE UNDER A MILLION TONS OF RUBBLE!
ON BEHALF OF THE BLUE DIVER CREW AND THE COAST GUARD, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND TO YOU OUR WARMEST WELCOME!
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WE'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME--WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

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MIDNIGHT SONS
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EARLY-MAR
149
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
VENGEANCE
ROUTE
666
HAVE A NICE DAY
DEEM
MACNEIL '93

Colin MacNeil — COVER
Richard Ashford — EDITOR
Michael Kraiger — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

VENGEANCE ..... pg. 1
"THE PRICE"

Do you know what HELLFIRE feels like? LT. Banilino does and its a cold hard burn.

Writer — CHRIS COOPER
Artist — FRED HARPER
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — JOE ANDREANI

STARJAMMERS ..... pg. 9
"BEYOND THE CALL"

In the far reaches of the galaxy, on a distant planet, the Della gems are needed to power the planetary force field. The jammers are there to get the inhabitants out of, a jam!

Writer — KELLY CORVESE
Pencils — ALEXANDER MORRISSY
Inks — MIKE DeCARLO
Letterer — LORETTA KROL
Colorist — JOE ANDREANI

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MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
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Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Marvel Readers Presents,

I read MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #134 and I thought it was a great story. I have a couple of questions, but first, I want to congratulate you on the fine job you do on your comics.

1. Will Cyber have his own four part series about his secret past? I would think he'd like to find out how he was created and who put him through all that hurt.

2) Did the Weapon-X project make Cyber before they made Wolverine?

3) What did Cyber do to create this conflict with Wolverine? Did he kill one of Wolverine's friends, or his parents?

Mike Mainiero
(Address withheld by request)

As of this moment, Mike, nothing is in the works for a Cyber four-parter, but your questions lead us to believe that it might be a good idea.

1) Wouldn't this be an awful lot like the WEAPON-X storyline?

2) We dunno. It hasn't been revealed.

3) Only his hairdresser knows for sure.

Dear Richard and Michael,

The takeover of MCP by the Midnight Sons is something that should have happened ages ago! It is injecting life into this comic, which wasn't bad to start with anyway!

1) Morbius: "Like Family, Like Enemy", continuing the Siege of Darkness, was a good story despite its lacking many eventful things in the life of Morbius. I'm curious about what Morbius will do to shake the Lilin life out of him, as well as what his standings in the Midnight Sons will become. Nobody ever explored what happened to Dracula when he drank tainted blood, so I'm happy that Morbius is setting a vampiric precedent. And I would like to see life on the other side of the coin, much like he was in his original debut issues before he became a vigilante/anti-hero.

Greg Wright did a good job, and I'll be watching his work. On the other hand, M.C. Wyman and Chris Ivy did not turn out work anywhere near their normal standards!

2) Ghost Rider: Chris Cooper's "Treachery Redeemed" was a clearer continuation of the Siege although I wish it tied in directly after the Morbius story. This story did well in showcasing Ghost Rider as well as Modred, who I'd like to see more of, especially in terms of his past. Again, this tied into Morbius' dilemma and I hope to see exactly what side the Spirit of Vengeance will take in upcoming issues. The art by Jones and Harper was again pleasant although these guys deserve to see their art on the upgraded paper of GHOST RIDER monthly.

3) Werewolf: This story, "Stage Fright" was a disappointment considering its first chapter. Len Kaminski should have lengthened this story in order to tie it into the Siege of Darkness and/or to explore Werewolf himself in lieu of the miniseries we're all waiting for. The premise is still good, even humorous, but reading this on October 31 couldn't even help. James Fry did another great job on pencils, but a more compatible inker would be nice. Looking forward to those NY adventures!

4) Scarlet Witch: Although this story again deserved more than 16 pages, writer Cefn Ridout did a wonderful job. Most to Cefn's credit was that this story is like nothing Wanda's been through before, a psychedelic journey through a cyberspace never before explored. Accompanying the wacky story was the surreal artwork of Charlie Adlard, who MCP should take more advantage of. Despite his oddities in drawing, Charlie really shows a lot of expression and style.

Thanks for your time, and I'll see you in another 16 days!

Joey Marchese
P.O. Box 2197
Union, NJ 07083-2197

S-STAY BACK! I'M WARNING YOU...
...STAY BACK!!
THE PRICE

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

NoOOOo!

YOU'RE GHOST RIDER. I HEARD ABOUT YOU... BUT YOU WOULDN'T K-KILL, WOULD YOU?

I I DIDN'T MEAN T TO HURT THE SHOPKEEPER, BUT

FOR GOD'S SAKE, SAY SOMETHING!!

OKAY.

THIS HAND SHOOTS HELLFIRE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WOULD DO TO YOUR HEAD?

N-NO!

NOW YOU KNOW.

BLAM

NEW YORK, TWO DAYS LATER...
LT. BADILINO OF THE N.Y.P.D. TAKES IN THE COLD WINTER AIR... AND FINDS OUT JUST HOW COLD IT CAN BE.
A COP?!?
THAT LOW-LIFE MURDERING THIEF I TOOK OUT-- THAT VENGEANCE TOOK OUT--
--WAS A COP GONE BAD??
...OFFICER DAVID JOHNSON, WHOSE DECAPITATED BODY WAS FOUND AT THE CRIME SCENE...
...APPARENTLY SPENT HIS OFF-DUTY HOURS INVOLVED IN ARMED ROBBERY AND MURDER. HE'S BEEN LINKED TO A TOTAL OF SIX CRIMES...
...INCLUDING ONE THAT PROVED FATAL TO HIM... ONE THAT WITNESSES SAY WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE VIGILANTE GHOST RIDER.
GOOD RIDDANCE. CORRUPT COPS MAKE ME SICK TO MY--
JOHNSON'S FUNERAL WAS SPARSELY ATTENDED...
...LEAVING HIS SON, BILLY, TO WONDER WHAT KIND OF MAN HIS FATHER REALLY WAS. THIS IS LINDA WEI FOR NEWS-6.
LOOKS ABOUT 12 YEARS OLD.
HE'LL GET OVER IT... YEAH...
...RIGHT... HE HAS TO...
...IT'S JUST HARD TO LOOK AT YOURSELF WHEN EVERYTHING YOU BELIEVE IN...
...TURNS OUT... WRONG.
HO HO HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS.
YEAH, RIGHT

SOON...
...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S COME BY. IT'S NOT RIGHT... DAVID WAS A GOOD MAN...
...UNTIL OUR SON, BILLY... HIS HEART CONDITION GOT WORSE.
THE INSURANCE COMPANY WOULDN'T PAY... THEY SAID THE ONLY KNOWN TREATMENT WAS STILL "EXPERIMENTAL"...
WHAT WERE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? WHAT WAS DAVID SUPPOSED TO DO?? WATCH HIS SON DIE?!?
KNOCK
KNOCK
I'M SORRY... I KNOW DAVID DID WRONG... EVEN IF ALL THE BUSINESSES HE HIT WERE SUSPECTED OF DRUG INVOLVEMENT...
...BUT HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT TO A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY?
MRS. JOHNSON? I'M LT. BADILINO. I JUST CAME BY TO SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING?
PLEASE, COME IN..
I SHOULDN'T BE HERE. THIS IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PROBLEMS.
I'M NOT. BUT...
MA'AM, I COULD TALK TO YOUR SON IF YOU LIKE--
MY GOD--!
THE LOCKED CABINET WHERE DAVID KEPT HIS GUN-- IT'S OPEN AND EMPTY!

WHERE'S YOUR SON, MRS. JOHNSON?
IN HIS ROOM! BUT--
GONE.
VENGEANCE!!! WHERE ARE YOU? I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU!!
THAT'S BILLY'S VOICE, FROM OUTSIDE, SOMEWHERE! OH, GOD, HIS HEART--!
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S ON THE ROOF! STAY HERE...
...I'LL TALK TO HIM.

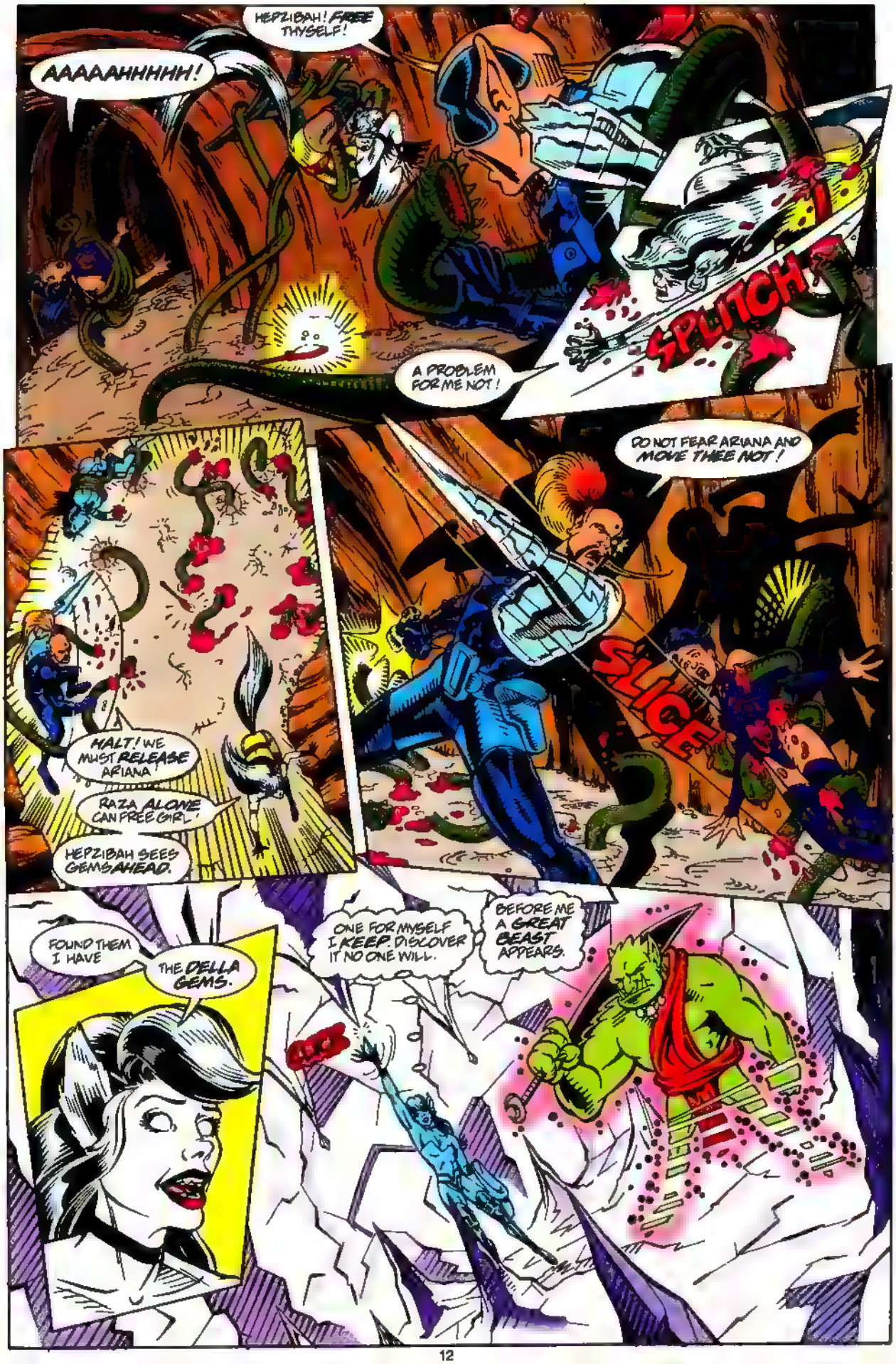
DID YOU HEAR ME, GHOST RIDER?! WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BRING YOU TO ME?
I'LL SHOOT SOMEONE DOWN BELOW, ANYONE IF THAT'S WHAT IT WILL TAKE!
I'LL KILL TILL YOU COME TO ME!
EASY THERE, BILLY.
DAD?
YOU BETTER SHOOT ME NOW, OFFICER! 'CAUSE I'LL DO ANY-THING, HURT ANYBODY TO GET GHOST RIDER!
ALL RIGHT, KID...
...THEN START BY SHOOTING ME.
PRETEND I'M GHOST RIDER, IF YOU WANT. MAYBE I DID HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR DAD'S DEATH.
I MAYBE KILLED HIM.

I... I...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE A KILLER.
...YOUR DAD DIDN'T RAISE YOU THAT WAY.
VENGEANCE IS A COLD, HARD THING, SON. IT DOESN'T KNOW MERCY...
...OR CONSIDER THE HIGH PRICE OF THE LIVES IT RUINS.
IT CONSUMES YOUR HUMANITY. DON'T CLING TO IT--
--IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO BE.
AND THAT GHOST RIDER GUY? ISN'T HE HAPPY NOW, BEING WHAT HE IS, HAVING KILLED MY DAD?
I'M... NOT SURE WHAT GHOST RIDER FEELS... IF GHOST RIDER FEELS...
...BUT I THINK HE'S IN A COLD, HARD PLACE RIGHT NOW.

BEYOND THE STARS OF THE SHI'AR GALAXY.
THE SPACE-PIRATES KNOWN AS, THE STARJAMMERS, HAVE DISCOVERED A SELDOM TRAVELED STAR SYSTEM KNOWN AS, BIANCA IV.
RENEGADES, WITH AN UNEASY ALLIANCE WITH MADAME EMPRESS LILANDRA OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE, THE STARJAMMERS MUST CONSTANTLY WATCH THEIR BACKS EVEN AS NEW DANGERS LIE CLOSELY AHEAD.
CORSAIR, WHAT DOING YOU ?
HEADED TO PLANET WE SUDDENLY ARE !
IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED HEPZIBAH--
HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THE MATTER.
PERHAPS NOT CHOD, BUT AS A FELLOW TRAVELER IN THIS CRAFT, I WOULD EXPECT TO BE GRANTED A SMOOTHER RIDE.
THE SHIPS POWER HAS BEEN CUT OFF !
STRAP IN STARJAMMERS, WE'RE GOING DOWN !
THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, RAZA.
I CHANCE TO GUESS YOU COULD DO NO BETTER WITH THIS TRACTOR BEAM PULLING US ONTO THAT PLANET !
STARJAMMERS IN
BEYOND THE CALL

AFTER A SURPRISINGLY GENTLE LANDING--
FORGIVE US FOR FORCING YOU TO LAND. WE MEAN YOU NO HARM. FOR WE ARE A PEACEFUL RACE OF BEINGS KNOWN AS ARIS.
THE PEOPLE HERE LIVE PEACEFUL QUIET LIVES. WE ARE ONLY ARMED WITH DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT OURSELVES.
I AM JOOOD'. TOGETHER WITH MY DAUGHTER ARIANA WE ARE RULERS OF THESE PEOPLE.
OF LATE WE HAVE BEEN HARRASSED BY AN ENCRUITMENT VESSEL OF THE GHRAND JHAR.
SAY NO MORE. WE HAVE HEARD OF THE MURDEROUS TACTICS SOME SHI'AR COMMANDERS ADOPT OUT HERE ON THE FRINGES OF THE EMPIRE!
I AM CORSAIR. THIS IS RAZA, CHOO AND HEPZIBAH.
MY MAIN CONCERN IS WHY DID YOU DRAW US HERE?
CORSAIR, OUR PLANET IS DESTINED TO BE DESTROYED.
I FELT YOU WOULD NOT HELP US UNLESS YOU HAD SUFFICIENT... MOTIVATION.
TO LAND YOU FORCED US, TO DANGER YOU PLACED US!
I DO NOT LIKE THIS CORSAIR
JUST A MINUTE LET'S HEAR THEM OUT.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.
PLEASE! YOU MUST RETRIEVE AT LEAST ONE GEM FOR US OR WE WILL HOLD YOUR SHIP
OUR MAIN DEFENSE AGAINST THE SHI'AR CONVERSION FORCE IS THIS GREAT MACHINE.
IT PROJECTS A FORCE FIELD AROUND OUR PLANET
THE GREAT MACHINE IS POWERED BY DELLA GEMS. THEY ARE ENERGY CRYSTALS FOUND DEEP BELOW OUR PLANETS SURFACE
OUR SUPPLY HAS ALL BUT BEEN DEPLEATED.
WE ARE USING THE LAST OF IT'S POWER TO BRING YOU HERE AND HOLD YOU HELP US OBTAIN MORE, OR BE STRANDED
THE CRYSTAL MINE IS A MYSTICAL DEMON WHICH GUARDS THE DELLA GEMS
WE ARE TOO GENTLE AND SMALL TO FIGHT THE DEMON
YOU HOWEVER ARE NOT
WE ARE AT YOUR MERCY, JUST AS YOU SHALL BE AT THE SHI'AR'S MERCY VERY SOON
NO. THEY ACT OUT OF DESPERATION A DESPERATION FORCED UPON THEM BY OVER ZEALOUS SHI'AR COMMANDERS.
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS INTERGALACTIC BLACKMAIL. SAY WE FORCE THEM TO LET US DEPART!
I MORE THAN ANYONE KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AT THE MERCY OF A GREATER POWER.
WE WILL HELP THEM.

CORSAIR AND HIS RELUCTANT STARJAMMERS ARE TAKEN TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE CAVE WHICH LEADS TO THE CRYSTAL MINES.
AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HER PEOPLE ARIANA HAS THE HONOR OF LEADING YOU TO THE CORRECT CAVERN IN THE CAVE.
BEYOND THAT POINT YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN.
YOU MAY FIND OBSTACLES ON YOUR JOURNEY BE SWIFT AND BE CAREFUL.
RUMBLE
THE ATTACKS HAVE STARTED AGAIN!
CORSAIR, NO! THE CAVERN WALLS ARE COLLAPSING!
HEPZIBAH! RAZA!
WE'RE TRAPPED INSIDE!
FRET NOT FAIR ONE CORSAIR AND CHOD WON'T REST UNTIL THEY FREE US.
OUTSIDE THE CAVE.
WE SHALL HURRY NOW AND RETRIEVE THE DELLA GEMS
KEEP IT GOING CHOD! AS I LOOSEN THE ROCKS, YOU CONTINUE TO PULL THEM FROM THE ENTRANCE!
DON'T WORRY CORSAIR, I'M SURE THEY ARE STILL ALIVE
THOUGH MY FATHER WOULD NOT APPROVE, I CANNOT LET OUR PEOPLE SUFFER IF I CAN HELP.
ARIANA IS A WARRIOR NOT!
I'M GOING WITH YOU!
STAY HERE SHE SHOULD SLOW US DOWN SHE WILL.
IT SEEMS THOU HAST MADE A WISE DECISION PRINCESS TO STAY THY GROUND IS CERTAIN DEATH IN THESE CAVERNS.
GRRRRRRRR
SSSSSSSSSSSSS


HEPZIBAH! FREE THYSELF!
AAAAAHHHHH!
SPLITCH
A PROBLEM FOR ME NOT!
DO NOT FEAR ARIANA AND MOVE THEE NOT!
SLICE
HALT! WE MUST RELEASE ARIANA!
RAZA ALONE CAN FREE GIRL.
HEPZIBAH SEES GEMS AHEAD.
FOUND THEM I HAVE
THE DELLA GEMS.
ONE FOR MYSELF I KEEP. DISCOVER IT NO ONE WILL.
BEFORE ME A GREAT BEAST APPEARS.

ONE PRECIOUS STONE TO PUT IN BELT.
A GREAT PRICE FOR IT WILL GET I.
RRRAAAGGHH
STRONG AND UGLY BEAST IS HE.
AGILITY OF HEPZIBAH IS BETTER.
HEPZIBAH IS FARING WELL AGAINST THAT BEAST.
BUT IT IS TIME TO PUT A STOP TO HIS ATTACK.
I MUST DISTRACT THE BEAST.
HEY UGLY! OVER HERE!
HUH?!
LET US SEE HOW YOU HOLD UP AGAINST THE WRATH OF RAZA!

NNGH!
THOU ART STRONGER THAN THOU APPEAR.
DOING FINE WAS I. IT IS YOU RAZA WHO NEEDS SAVING.
SLASH
ZZZZZT
JUST CALL IT TEAMWORK AND LEAVE IT AT THAT, AVE HEPZIBAH!
CHUNK
THE BEAST--
--YOU'VE KILLED HIM.
WHAT EXPECT YOU?
A CLOSE RANGE BLAST FROM RAZA'S LAZER NO LESS COULD DO.
GRAB GEMS NOW!
LEAVE WE MUST!

RUMBLE
SHI'AR... ATTACKING AGAIN.
THE DELLA GEMS! DROPPED THEM I HAVE!
WE MUST LEAVE QUICKLY! THE CAVE IS COLLAPSING!
YOU GO IF YOU WANT!
I MUST STAY AND SEARCH FOR MORE GEMS!
GIVE ME YOUR HAND ARIANA! LEAD YOU TO SAFETY WE SHALL!
NO! NOT WITHOUT AT LEAST ONE ENERGY CRYSTAL!
ONE GEM HAVE I.
PLANNING MYSELF TO KEEP.
GIVE IT TO HER I MUST TO SAVE US ALL.
ARIANA, HERE! ONE GEM LEFT HAVE I.
WITH IT WE NOW MUST LEAVE!
OH PRAISE YOU HEPZIBAH!
RUN NOW, PRAISE LATER!
THE WALLS ARE CRUMBLING! MAKE HASTE!
SLAM

FINDING THEIR WAY OUT OF THE CRYSTAL MINE, RAZA, HEPZIBAH AND ARIANA FIND THE ENTRANCE HAS BEEN OPENED AGAIN.
BUT WE ARE DEAR HEPZIBAH. WE ARE.
CORSAIR MY LOVE! REUNITED I FEARED WE WOULD NOT BE.
FATHER BEHOLD WE'VE RETRIEVED ONE DELLA GEM! THE FORCE FIELD CAN BE POWERED AGAIN!
YOU HAVE DONE WELL ARIANA. YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE PROUD, AS AM I.
MY FRIEND, YOU HAD US ALL WORRIED.
YOUR SENTIMENTALITY IS SO NOTED. NOW RELEASE ME FROM THY HUG.
YOU AND YOUR STARJAMMER SAVED ALL ON THIS PLANET TODAY.
HOW CAN WE REPAY YOU.
I WOULD NEVER WISH ANYONE TO BOW UNWILLINGLY TO A HIGHER RULE.
CONTINUE AS A FREE PLANET AND I WILL FEEL REPAID.
A GRANDER REWARD THE GEMS WOULD MAKE.
THUS I LIFTED THE GREAT BEAST ABOVE MY HEAD AND CAST HIM INTO THE BOTTOMLESS CAVERN BELOW...
HUSH HEPZIBAH.
UH HUH.
AS THE STARJAMMER'S HEAD BACK INTO SPACE--
HOW VERY LUCKY WE WERE THAT HEPZIBAH HAD THE FORESIGHT TO STASH AN EXTRA CRYSTAL INTO HER BELT.
YES CLEVER. INDEED.
HOW DO YOU FEEL KNOWING YOU SAVED AN ENTIRE PLANET TODAY HEPZIBAH?
GRUMBLE MUMBLE
I'M SORRY HEPZIBAH COULD YOU SPEAK UP. MY HEARING ISN'T AS CRYSTAL CLEAR AS IT ONCE WAS.
THE END.